

EXTRA

PRICE ONE CENT.

LAST EDITION
EXTRA
BRUTAL.

Kemmler Dies a Terrible Death in the Electric Chair.

The First Shock Did Not Kill Him and a Second and Third Were Applied.

The Autopsy Shows That the Muscles and Brain Were Literally Baked.

Alive Six Minutes After the Current Was Turned On.

The Wretched Man's Flesh Burned After the Third Shock.

A More Revolting Exhibition Than the Inquisition Ever Saw.

SPECIAL TO THE EVENING WORLD.

ALBANY, Aug. 6.—The first case of electrocution—the new method of administering death as the extreme penalty of the law for the terrible crime of murder—is not to be set down as a complete success.

William Kemmler died this morning, so far as the best obtainable evidence goes, not in the instant and painless manner in which it had been intended to execute him, but under torturing torments.

It was not a single, paralyzing shock which took his life away.

It was a succession of awful, rending throbs, as if the nerves were being torn piece by piece from their centres.

THREE SHOCKS TO KILL.

The current was turned into the body three times.

On the first occasion the electric throbs were continued for eighteen seconds.

Then the switch was turned back and a careful examination of the body was made.

Two minutes later, at 6.45 o'clock, signs of respiration were observed and the current was hastily switched into the poor wretch's body for the second time.

This time the awful work was thought to be done for sure.

Scarcely had the current been removed

for the second time, however, when again appeared the signs of continued life.

The man's chest heaved and froth gathered at his mouth.

It was a spectacle which no tongue nor pen could describe.

Hastily the word was given to the concealed executioner in the next room to turn the switch again.

This time the dynamo was allowed for four full minutes to pour its destroying tide into the poor, strapped-down piece of humanity.

THE BODY BEGINS TO ROAST.

Then there appeared the signs known to those familiar with the cases of death on the wires in New York.

Smoke came from the mouth.

The odor of burning flesh filled the stifling hot room.

Kemmler was dead at last.

By this time even the coolest-headed of the party was terribly impressed by the awfulness of the event.

What was the matter nobody can tell at this time.

It is declared that the first voltage which went into Kemmler's body was registered at 1,800.

That was enough to have killed instantly. What, then, was wrong?

Was there meat in the stories of the disarranged volt-metre, after all?

KEMMLER'S SUFFERINGS.

"How long did Kemmler suffer?" asked an EVENING WORLD reporter of one of the physicians who saw the execution.

The doctor was loath to reply at first, but, finding the reporter knew already something of what had gone on in that awful death-chamber, he spoke, reassuringly:

"Oh, the poor fellow was unconscious after the first shock. He did not feel the rest."

Heaven grant that the doctor spoke the truth.

It was a nervous, unstrung party which left the prison after the event was over.

More than one of them will see for long days in his mind's eye the pain-distorted face, with half-opened eyes, revealed when the face of dead William Kemmler was finally uncovered.

A Brutal and Sickening Event.

[SPECIAL TO THE EVENING WORLD.]

ALBANY, Aug. 6.—Little by little it becomes evident that the whole truth of the Kemmler execution was not told by the men who saw the occurrence.

FIRST STORIES NOT THE WORST.

Most of the witnesses seen when they first came out of the prison, though their looks showed that they had been through a terrible strain, united as if by common consent, in the tale that electrocution had been proved a success.

But not all were able to do this.

Dr. Fowler was pale and haggard when he escaped from the scene of the legal killing, and he ejaculated in horror-stricken tones:

"There'll never be another execution by that means."

The moment the current was turned off after the first shock a half dozen medical men sprang to their feet and felt the pulse of the man in the chair.

PRONOUNCED DEAD WHILE LIVING.

They pronounced him dead and fell into a discussion of the case, examining this feature and that; the pupils of the eyes, the pulsing places in the neck and other points, when suddenly the body began to show signs of life.

There was faint respiration, and Kemmler was surely returning to life, as did that lineal man who was knocked from his ladder in East Thirty-fourth street, two years ago, and revived after being taken to the Morgue.

For a moment there was commotion.

Warden Durston, who had calmed down his intense agitation, became excited again.

Word must be sent to the dynamo-room, 500 feet away—an order to turn on the pressure again.

It was done in a few seconds, but each second was an age to the witnesses.

A second current was sent through the poor wretch's body, this time for nearly two minutes, and then Kemmler was dead beyond a doubt.

[Other witnesses say three shocks were used, as affirmed above.—Ed.]

The relief experienced by those who were but spectators can be better imagined than described.

"HORRIBLE," SAYS ELECTRICIAN HUNTLEY.

C. R. Huntley, the electrical expert, is even more outspoken. He says:

"The scene was most horrible. There was a smell as of burning flesh or as if hair was being scorched."

"There was no smoke, and the burnings must have been at the point of contact, as the smell of the hair."

"There was a foam on the lips of the poor fellow, and there was horror on every face."

A REPORTER MADE ILL BY THE SIGHT.

Mr. Bain, the United Press representative, was so affected that he vomited and was very ill for some time afterwards.

Dr. George F. Schrady, who was taken into the scene of the execution, said:

"I have seen many men hanged, and I must say that there is nothing in the old method so revolting as the scene I have witnessed this morning."

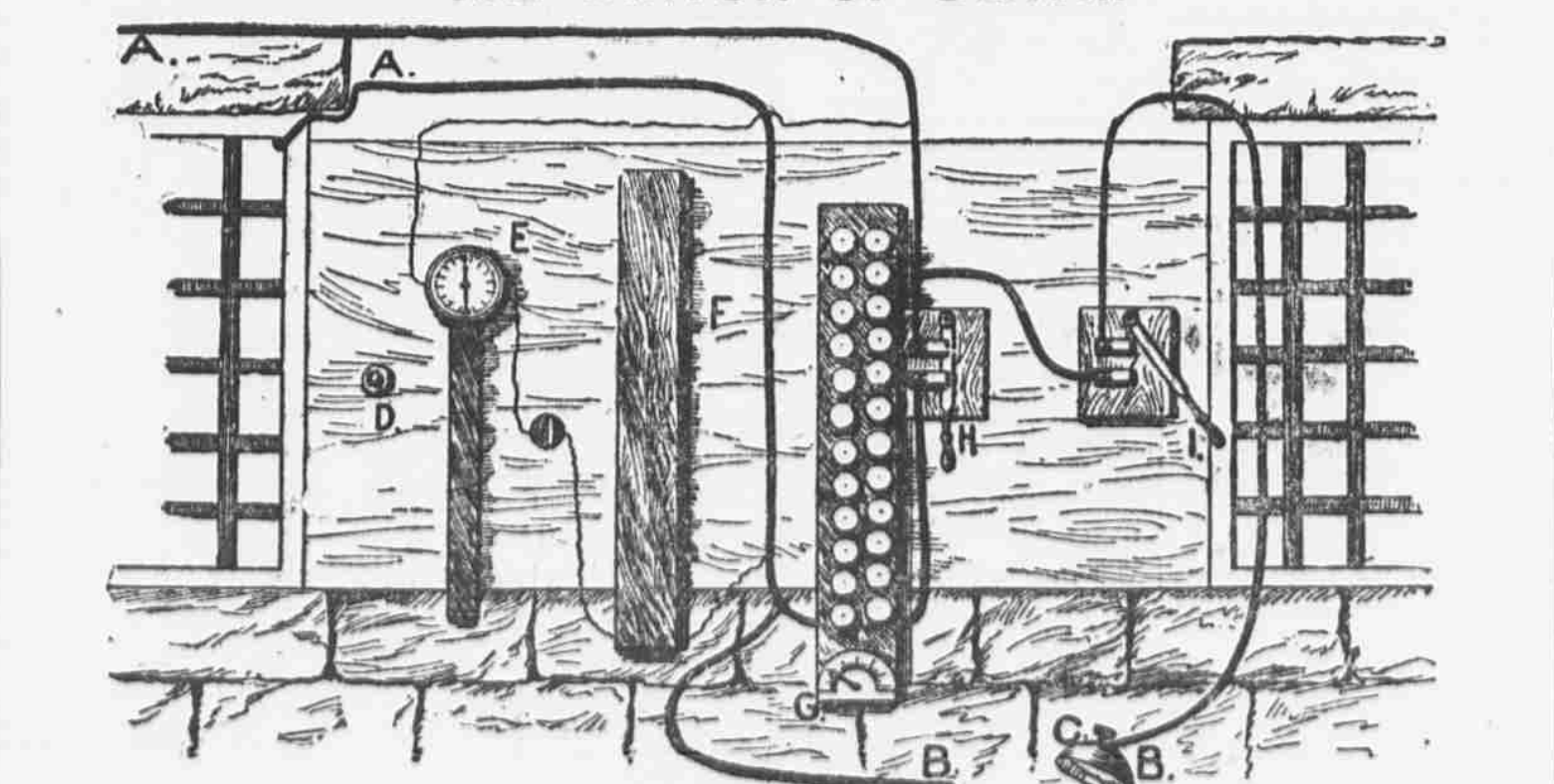
"The execution was decidedly not rea-

KEMMLER EXTRA---NO. 6.



1—Kemmler. 2—In the Death Chair. 3—Agent and Warden Durston. 4—Principal Keeper Boyle. 5—Mrs. Durston. 6—Keeper Daniel McNaughton. 7—Auburn Prison front from State street. 8—Prison front showing (A) windows lighting Kemmler's cell and death chamber.

THE SWITCH OF DEATH.



A—Dynamo wire. B—Wires to connect with Kemmler's head and base of spine. C—Cap goes on top of Kemmler's head. D—Signal button to dynamo-room. E—Voltmeter register. F—Resistance box. G—Lamp board and register. H—Lamp switch. I—Main switch, by handle of which executioner will connect current.

suring as to the scientific value of electricity as a means of execution.

Dr. Carlos F. McDonald, who has all along favored the new idea, said simply:

"I think the execution was a success. It is true that the first application of the electric current did not extinguish the life of the subject, but it was quite evident that he experienced no suffering and died without a pain."

These expressions were gathered from the medical experts while they were down to the hotel for a light breakfast.

The autopsy was adjourned for half an hour to allow time for breakfast.

THE WITNESSES HAZARD.

It was noticeable that those who first emerged from the scene of death were pale, haggard and perturbed.

Quimby, the first to come out, was noticeably so, but each of them reported that the execution had been entirely successful, except Dr. J. M. Jenkins, of Auburn, who choked something down his throat as he replied:

"No, he did not die like the snap of your thumb."

He was with the man when the clergyman knelt in prayer with him, and at Kemmler's request assisted in adjusting the condemned man in the death-chair.

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of the electrodes to the spinal column, and that part of the work the Warden performed himself.

As Expert Huntley stepped upon the train which carried him away from the city, he said:

"No one can depict in words the apparent horrible sufferings of that poor devil in the intervals between the first and second application of the electric current."

"Every one in the room lost his head. I would not think \$1,000 an inducement for witnessing another electrocution."

THE Autopsy's Awful Disclosures.

[SPECIAL TO THE EVENING WORLD.]

ALBANY, Aug. 6.—The autopsy on Kemmler's body was completed at noon, and it revealed a state of affairs more horrible than even those thought who saw the poor fellow suffering in agony and heard his half-stifled groans.

Dr. William T. Jenkins, whom Dr. Schrady says is the greatest man in New York at an autopsy, conducted the post mortem with Dr. Schrady, Daniels, Spitzka and MacDonald as assistants.

It was found that at the base of the spinal column the electrode had burned a place as large as the palm of a man's hand.

The muscles were baked clear to the bone. On the top of the head the scalp was burned off, the skull was almost calcined, and underneath the brain was actually baked.

Dr. Schrady says the experiment was far from successful, from a scientific point of view, and as to the question of whether it was humane or not the public can easily decide.

"I do not think that the poor fellow suffered any pains from these burns, but that interval between the first and last applications of the electric current—it was four and a half minutes, for a watch showed it in the hands of my next-door neighbor—that awful little interim when the chest of the man heaved and was convulsed, was a most terrific mental strain upon every man in that room."

"I want never again to witness anything like that. You may kill a man, but kill him."

Kemmler's brain was in a perfectly sound condition, aside from the baking. He was a well-formed, healthy young man of considerable vitality.

The autopsy shows that beyond a doubt the electric current killed him, but the manner in which the vital spark was extinguished must be stated by the official report of the autopsy.

"Worse Than Hanging," Says Dr. Schrady.

[SPECIAL TO PRESS NEWS ASSOCIATION.]

ALBANY, Aug. 6.—With the rising of today's sun William Kemmler passed into history as the first man executed by electricity.

At 6.45 the executioner touched the lever completing the circuit.

Instantly Kemmler's arms pushed out as far as the straps allowed, the fingers opened and closed, the body stiffened and then all was still.

The current was irregular, the voltmeter flying back and forth between 800 and 1,300 volts.

At the end of seventeen seconds the current was broken.

In a second the chest relaxed and something like a gasp was forth.

Every one was sure Kemmler was not yet dead.

Dr. Spitzka and McDonald looked at Kemmler a second and then gave a motion to apply the current again.

The executioner closed the lever. Some acidity of the body was seen as before. Froth began coming from the mouth.

The circuit was broken several times, each break being followed by relaxation.

At the end of thirty-two seconds the current was finally broken. Kemmler's chest slightly collapsed and he was dead beyond doubt.

After half an hour the electrodes were removed.

The hair on the head was not burned and there were no marks on the back.

Dr. McDonald, President of the State Lunacy Commission, said after the event:

"The State ought never to have made the Warden execute criminals. Each time it will be the same way. They ought to have special men, experts, under employ, as long as we have capital punishment, it should not degenerate into mere experiment."

Undoubtedly Kemmler was alive after the first shock, though not suffering. Dr. Schrady, Gen. Grant's old physician, said:

"The execution was brutal—worse, I think, than hanging. It probably was not painful, but the failure to kill at the first application was barbarous."

The Warden's Death Certificate.

[SPECIAL TO THE EVENING WORLD.]

ALBANY, Aug. 6.—The certificate of Warden Durston, that he had executed William Kemmler in obedience to the order of the conviction of Justice Childs, was signed by the twenty-five witnesses to the execution at 10.50 o'clock this morning.

It will be filed with the County Clerk of Erie County.

His text is as follows:

I, Charles F. Durston, Agent and Warden of the State Prison, County of Albany, State of New York, do hereby certify, pursuant to section 128 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of the State of New York, that in obedience to and in conformity with the judgment and sentence of the above named Court and the warrants of said Court, I, said Agent and Warden, of the said State Prison, in the City of Albany, County of Albany, State of New York, on the sixth day of August, 1890, did attend upon the execution of said judgment and sentence, and that I, said Agent and Warden, otherwise called John Hart, the County Clerk mentioned, was then and there, to wit, and placed forth-

with and executed in conformity to said judgment and sentence of said Court.

And in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure of the State of New York I do further certify that the persons whose names are hereinafter signed were persons entitled to such Agent and Warden of said State Prison, to be present at said execution, and that said persons were all the persons present to witness the execution of said judgment and sentence upon William Kemmler, otherwise John Hart.

Witness my hand and seal of office, at Albany, County of Albany, State of New York, on the 6th day of August, 1890.

CHARLES F. DURSTON, Agent and Warden.

We, the undersigned, being the persons, and all the persons, present and witnessing the execution of the judgment and sentence set forth by the foregoing certificate, do hereby, pursuant to such statute made and provided, and at the City of Albany, County of Albany, State of New York, subscribed the foregoing certificate. (Signed)

JOHN HART, County Clerk.

JOSEPH FOWLER, W. T. JENKINS, HENRY A. ANDER, A. P. SOUTHWICK, O. A. HOGGARTH, C. HUNTER, H. E. ALLISON, J. K. SMITH, JOHN DEWIL, E. C. SPITZKA, CARLOS F. McDONALD, GEORGE E. JELL, OLIVER A. JENKINS, HORATIO VELLING, FRANK C. BREWER, MICHAEL COVATTA, GEORGE G. BLAIR, FRANK W. MACK, GEORGE W. LIEB.

First Stories of the Execution.

[SPECIAL TO THE EVENING WORLD.]

ALBANY, Aug. 6.—There was little satisfaction to be gained from witnesses to the execution when they first made their exit from the prison.

Apparently they deemed it discreet not to fully reveal the horrors of the scene they had just witnessed.

District Attorney Quimby, of Erie County the man who prosecuted Kemmler for his crime, emerged from the prison at 7.05 A.M. looking depressed and dejected, he said:

"It is all over. He died as quick as that," snapping his finger.

The excitement in the crowd at the announcement made by District Attorney Quimby was intense, and everybody jostled each other to get nearer to the iron steeple.

No one else appeared on the iron steeple, however, for some time and the crowd simmered down to quietness.

It was 7.20 when heads began to appear in the windows of Warden Durston's office.

Dr. J. K. Smith, emerging ten minutes later, gave this account:

"The dead was full of nerve. He said as they led him out:

"Take your time, now; do it right."

"Then when the sponges were not placed on his head firm enough he said: 'Put down hard.'"

"What have you to say, William Kemmler?" asked Warden Durston.

"Nothing; only good-by, boys. I wish you all good luck."

"Then after a moment he added: 'I wish you all good luck, boys. Good-by.'"

The switch was worked on the board in an adjoining room by some person whose name will probably be unknown forever.

There was a slight twitching, and all were over. William Kemmler was dead in a wink.

Chaplain Yates and Rev. Mr. Houghton were very sad faces and were solemnly silent when they emerged arm in arm from the prison.

PRAYING WITH THE MURDERER.

Chaplain Yates would say nothing. They had repaired directly to Kemmler's cell on entering the prison.

There they knelt and prayed with and for the young man about to pass from the world to another.

Lawrence Donlan, a devout Catholic, crossed himself as he left the scene, and old Dan McNaughton knelt humbly in a distant corner of the little room, while the reverend gentlemen prayed. First Chaplain Yates and then the pastor of the fashionable Methodist church.

Kemmler, with his head half buried in his hands on the cot that had been his bed of peaceful rest for fifteen months, gave no sign of any emotion.

At the close of prayers Dr. Houghton took the handle of the doomed man and in his gentle voice drew from him the disjointed words:

KEMMLER'S REPENTANT WORDS.

"I was bad—wicked. I am sorry I did an awful deed. I should be punished for it."

"I am ready to take my punishment. I ought to die. I shall die game."

The two good men talked a little further to him and then withdrew.

A few minutes later Kemmler was led from the cell and placed in the chair of death.

HIS ARMS BOUND.

His arms were bound to the arms of the chair, his legs to the rest.

The mask, an oval piece of leather with an opening over the mouth large enough to permit of free breathing, was placed over the face and buckled behind the head-rest, holding the head firmly in place.

WARDEN DURSTON'S REMARKS.

Then Warden Durston addressed the assembled witnesses, who had been disposed about the little room.

The Warden said he had always done his best to make the last days of his prisoners as earth as pleasant as possible and strived to fit him by education and the companionship of good, God-fearing men out of the slough into which his former life had plunged him.

He had carefully followed the law of the State in the spirit as well in the letter, and while he may have made himself unpopular with those who sought to gratify their morbid curiosity, he felt that the man Kemmler had profited by it and would die a far better man than he had ever been in life.

KEMMLER ASKED THEM TO BURN.

Kemmler, at this juncture, wanted a light to read his will, and said:

"Burn it up."

The Warden asked him if he had anything to say, and Kemmler said:

"Nothing; only good-by—good-by, boys"—and similar things.

ADIEUS CUT SHORT.

Even while he was repeating his adieu in a bold, loud voice, there came a sudden convulsion of his muscles.

The current was on for the first time.